

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Claims 3, 8-9, and 12-17 are cancelled. Claims 1-2, 4-7, and 10-11 remain in this application and, as amended herein, are submitted for the Examiner's reconsideration.

In the Office Action, claims 1-2, 4-7, and 10-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Sullivan (U.S. Patent No. 6,069,647). Applicant submits that the claims are patentably distinguishable over Sullivan.

Sullivan describes digital content that is decrypted and re-encrypted with a key that is recognized by a programmable unit. (See col.5 ll.35-39.) Namely, Sullivan describes decryption and re-encryption of the digital content using a single key. Sullivan does not disclose or suggest first key information and second key information, and Sullivan does not disclose or suggest decrypting an encrypted signal using first key information and re-encrypting the decrypted signal using second key information. Therefore, at the very least, Sullivan does not disclose or suggest the decryption means, the encryption means, the signal switching means, the authentication process means, and the second communication means that are set out in claim 1.

It follows that Sullivan does not disclose or suggest the combination defined in claim 1 and thus does not anticipate the claim.

Claims 2 and 4-6 depend from claim 1 and are distinguishable over Sullivan for at least the same reasons.

Independent claim 7 includes limitations similar to those set out in claim 1 and, for at least the same reasons, is distinguishable over Sullivan.

Claim 11 depends from claim 10 and is distinguishable over the cited reference for at least the same reasons.

Accordingly, the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) is respectfully requested.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which the Examiner might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

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